

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16453 271222Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9271

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16453

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, US

SUBJ: AMOCO VESSEL MOVEMENTS IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF STATE 290016,

1. WE CONTACTED AMOCO EGYPT MANAGER CRAIG IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL. CRAIG ASSURED US THAT EXTENT OF SEISMIC WORK HAD BEEN DETERMINATED CAREFULLY TO AVOID INCIDENT. HE THOUGHT PERHAPS DRAFTING ERROR WAS CAUSE OF PROBLEM. BECAUSE AMOCO OFFICES CLOSE FRIDAY/SATURDAY, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONFIRM COORDINATES OR PROVIDE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION UNTIL NOV 28.

2. ACCORDING LATEST INFO, SEISMIC WORK DUE TO START NOV 28, WEATHER PERMITTING. CRAIG SAID THAT AS OF MORNING NOV 27, WEATHER IN GULF WAS ROUGH, SO THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY WORK WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL NOV 29. IN ORDER AVOID POSSIBILITY OF INCIDENT, CRAIG WILL INSTRUCT SEISMIC VESSEL TO BEGIN WORK IN EXTREME SOUTHWESTERN AREA UNTIL HE CAN CONTACT HIS PEOPLE AND ATTEMPT CLARIFY MATTER WITH US. WHILE WE BELIEVE CRAIG'S ASSERTION HE ORDERED SEISMIC WORK ONLY ON WESTERN SIDE OF GULF, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THOSE WHO DID ACTUAL DRAFTING WERE UNAWARE OF VARIOUS MEDIAN DEMARCATIONS.

3. GIVEN WEATHER CONDITIONS, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY ANY WORK WILL BEGIN BEFORE NOV 29. IF WORK DOES START NOV 28, BEGINNING IN SOUTHWEST CORNER SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS. WE FIND AMOCO
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UNWILLING TO POSTPONE WORK ENTIRELY BECAUSE OF COST OF BOAT'S

IDLE TIME AND FACT THEY CONVINCED WORK AREA IS WEST OF MEDIAN LINE. WE WILL KEEP CLOSE TOUGH WITH AMOCO NOV 28 AND REPORT AS NECESSARY.

4. WISH EMPHASIZE THAT IN PRESENTING US WITH INFO ON SEISMIC WORK, AMCO DID NOT RPT NOT ASK FOR USG TO INFORM GOI NOR DID CRAIG RAISE THIS WITH US DURING CONTACTS NOV 27. UNTIL WE SEE HOW MATTER IS RESILVED NOV 28, BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT APPROACH GOI WITH INFORMATION.
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